

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel claims 10-19 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Please amend claims 5-7 as follows:

1. (Original) A method for selecting an emphasis image from a collection of images based on facial identification, said method comprising the steps of:

- (a) obtaining a collection of digital images;
- (b) detecting image patterns indicative of the presence of one or more faces in the digital images, thereby identifying one or more detected faces for each image in which a face is detected;
- (c) recognizing one or more faces from the detected faces for each of the images in which a face is detected; and
- (d) scoring an image based on the relative frequency of occurrence of a recognized face within the collection of images, thereby producing an emphasis image characteristic of the most frequently occurring face in the collection of images.

2. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the scoring step (d) comprises scoring an image based on the number of recognized faces detected in an image and on the number of occurrences within the image collection of the recognized faces within the image.

3. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the collection of digital images are obtained from a digital camera.

4. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the collection of digital images are obtained from scanned film images.

5. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 5~~ claim 1 further comprising the steps of establishing a first data structure that stores data identifying each face and the images in which that face appears, and a second data structure that stores a list of the images and an entry in the list for the number of the faces that appear in each image.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 4~~ claim 5 further comprising a set of pointers that couple the entries in the second data structure to the data for each face in the first data structure.

7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the emphasis image is used in ~~the~~ formation of a photo-album.

8. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 7 wherein the emphasis image is used as a cover image for the photo-album.

9. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the emphasis image is used as a cover image for a jewel case of a CD.

10.-19. (Cancelled)